

North Delta Water Agency
Board of Directors Meeting
14120 Grand Ave, Walnut Grove, CA 95690
Wednesday, October 6, 2010 at 9:30 a.m.

Minutes

Call to Order

Chair Henry Kuechler called the regularly scheduled meeting to order at 9:34 a.m. on Wednesday, October 6, 2010. A quorum was determined at that time. Those present:

Directors

Neil Hamilton, Division 5

Henry Kuechler, Division 3

Ken Ruzich, Division 4

Carel van Loben Sels, Division 2

Absent

Steve Mello, Division 1

Others

Meda Benefield, Maine Prairie WD

Bob Webber, RD 999

Mike Hardesty, RD 2068

Staff

Gary Kienlen, MBK Engineers

Sara Harper, MBK Engineers

Kevin O'Brien, Downey Brand

Margaret Sorensen

Melinda Terry

Finances

Margaret Sorensen reported that federal payroll taxes must now be paid by electronic payments (EFTPS - electronic federal tax payment system). She noted the agency's reserves have decreased significantly over the last two years.

Motion and second to approve the financial reports. Motion approved.

BDCP

The Steering Committee is still scheduled to release an incomplete draft HCP/NCCP on November 18, 2010. Because the EIR will not be released until April 2011, the document released in November cannot be called a draft plan. Melinda Terry reported that she attended a few of the private Principles meetings but did not feel like much was accomplished at those meetings. Delta Counties Coalition sent an excellent letter to Secretary Snow regarding their objection to the private Principals meetings.

NDWA has received a disclosure statement to sign and return in order to receive the effects analysis modeling information. MBK Engineers will look at the information that DWR shares and give the Board an estimate on the cost to test and review the modeling. Melinda informed the Board that another 30 Temporary Entry permits were issued by DWR for geo-tech drilling to study the underground Peripheral Canal delivery option for BDCP.

BDCP will hold a Yolo Bypass local issues group meeting tonight to present information on the Fremont Weir project.

Congressmen Cardoza and Costa sent the USBR a letter regarding the implementation of the San Joaquin River Restoration Program. The letter requested that third party impacts, such as seepage and erosion, be addressed including a transparent claim process and source of funding for the

payments. Melinda stated that she will use this letter as a template to send a similar letter to the BDCP requesting the same process be included in the BDCP.

Report on Delta Activities

The Delta Conservancy has begun a search for an Executive Director.

Topper van Loben Sels said the DPC selected Mike Machado as its new Executive Director. The Commission is holding stakeholder meetings throughout the Delta regarding the National Heritage Designation, Delta Primary Zone study, and Economic Stability Plan.

Bob Webber shared that Westlands had made a presentation on the Yolo Ranch project at a recent Yolo Bypass Planning Forum.

Legal Report

Kevin O'Brien distributed the procedures for approval of a new assessment and a draft engineer's report to the Board members. He directed the Board to individually review the engineer's report but hold any discussion and questions until the next Board meeting. He will bring a revised Guidelines for Board Members to the next meeting regarding their limitations in the assessment ballot proceedings.

Engineer's Report

Gary Kienlen distributed water quality charts and reported that water quality is currently within the contract's criteria. He does not have a reason for the nightly spike in quality yet. DWR will perform a routine maintenance check-up on the equipment in October.

Manager's Report

The manager's report was included in the packet. The proposed schedule for the 2011 Board meetings includes a change from meeting monthly to meeting every other month.

Motion and second to approve the 2011 Board of Directors meeting schedule. Motion unanimously approved.

Copies of Senator Feinstein's bill designating the Delta as a National Heritage Area were included in the packet. The Board discussed the lack of tangible benefits of the bill.

Melinda, Gilbert Cosio and Mike Hardesty took the new Water Master, Craig Wilson, on a tour throughout the delta.

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:07 a.m. on Wednesday, October 6, 2010.

Respectfully Submitted,
Margaret Sorensen, Administrative Assistant